1	Q. Of all the management personnel, the
2	personnel either in Wilmington or in
3	Philadelphia, do any of them work solely for the
4	Atlantic City system or do their responsibilities
5	carry over the other Comcast markets?
6	A. The people at the retail center work
7	solely for Atlantic City.
8	Q. I'm now discussing the management staff
9	that's in either Wilmington or Philadelphia.
10	A. I don't believe so. There may be a
11	controller or accounting people who work solely
12	on Atlantic City matters but I don't know for
13	certain if that's the case.
14	Q. Those higher in authority such as
15	Ms. Hillman or Mr. Dombroski, Mr. Moerman, their
16	responsibilities do carry over to other markets
17	other than Atlantic City, correct?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. To your knowledge, has Mr. Thompson
20	ever expressed any dissatisfaction over any
21	individual employee of Comcast?
22	A. I wouldn't say any particular
23	dissatisfaction. I mean, there are times when
24	someone from Comcast has one opinion about

something and he has a different opinion and

- those things are worked out through the
- discussions and he may say well, I didn't like
- 3 that quy's opinion about the issue. But that's
- 4 about all.
- Q. He's never told you that he thinks some
- 6 employee is doing a really poor job?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 MR. WEBER: That's all the questions I
- 9 have.
- 10 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR
- 11 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
- 12 BY MR. REIDELER:
- 13 O. I would like to touch a bit on
- Mr. Thompson's financial obligations to the
- 15 Atlantic system. How was the initial
- 16 construction of the system financed?
- 17 A. The initial construction of the system
- 18 was financed through a loan from Provident Bank.
- 19 Q. And was the money borrowed by Ellis
- 20 Thompson Corporation?
- 21 A. Yes, it was.
- 22 Q. And this loan was exclusively Ellis
- Thompson's corporation's, it didn't involve
- 24 Amcell or any other management group?
- A. No. Ellis Thompson Corporation is the

- sole borrower and the sole party responsible for
- 2 that obligation.
- Q. What is Mr. Thompson's responsibility
- 4 with respect to the loan?
- 5 A. Mr. Thompson's responsibility with
- 6 respect to the loan is really as an officer of
- 7 Ellis Thompson Corporation. He has seen and
- 8 reviewed and executed the loan documents. He is
- 9 not personally liable for the loans.
- 10 Q. He's not a cosigner?
- 11 A. No, he is not a guarantor or cosigner
- 12 of the loan.
- Q. Are either Amcell or Comcast cosigners
- 14 on the loan?
- 15 A. No, they're not.
- Q. Are there any other cosigners?
- 17 A. No.
- Q. Did Amcell or Comcast play any role in
- 19 securing this line?
- 20 A. They introduced us to Provident Bank.
- Q. Now, if there were default, the bank
- has the right to foreclose on the Ellis Thompson
- Corporation's assets, is that correct?
- A. The Ellis Thompson Corporation's assets
- as well as -- I should say that you asked about

- 1 Mr. Thompson's personal involvement. He has
- 2 pledged his stock in Ellis Thompson Corporation
- as collateral for the loan, but the stock only.
- Q. Were there any Comcast assets pledged?
- 5 A. None.
- 6 MR. REIDELER: I would like this item
- 7 labeled Lokting 17, please.
- 8 (Lokting Exhibit No. 17 was
- 9 marked for identification.)
- 10 BY MR. REIDELER:
- Q. This is a letter dated March 21st, 1994
- 12 and it contains several attachments. Do you
- 3 recognize this document or these documents, I
- 14 should say?
- 15 A. Yes, I've seen these.
- Q. Would you please explain what they are?
- 17 A. Well, there is a cover letter from Anna
- 18 Hillman to me and it encloses the financial
- 19 statements or the draft financial statements for
- 20 1993. Typically these are sent to Mr. Thompson
- 21 to review and approval prior to the time that
- they become final and the financial statements
- are issued and they're eventually sent to the
- 24 bank.

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And then she would have also forwarded

- a draft letter to Provident Bank to extend the
- 2 financing because it was originally set up on a
- 3 relatively short maturity date and we've been
- 4 extending it each year. And it's typically
- 5 extended in connection with issuing the financial
- 6 statements as well because it has to do with
- 7 characterizing the debt as either long term or
- 8 short term.
- 9 Q. The credit is to meet current expenses,
- 10 is that correct?
- 11 A. The credit facility?
- 12 Q. The revolving credit.
- A. Well, the revolving credit, the
- 14 outstanding balance of that revolving credit
- 15 represents the initial construction costs that
- 16 went into building the system and some increases
- in that credit facility for some of the expansion
- 18 that's occurred. And then there is also some
- 19 principal in there for operating cash shortfalls
- during the first few months of operations in
- 21 1989. But mostly it's just keeping that debt on
- the books and the operating expenses typically
- are paid from operating revenues.
- Q. But it's Mr. Thompson that typically
- renews the request for the revolving credit, is

- that correct?
- 2 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 3 Q. And this is done annually?
- A. Done annually.
- 5 Q. I would like to turn to Exhibit 3 one
- 6 last time. Directing your attention to the
- 7 section labeled Distribution to Interest
- 8 Holders.
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. There you mentioned a \$400,000
- 11 distribution to interest holders under the CMS
- 12 settlement agreement.
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. Could you tell me what this agreement
- 15 is?
- 16 A. The CMS settlement agreement is a
- 17 settlement group -- it's an agreement among the
- 18 143 applicants for the Atlantic City market.
- 19 Q. And would you characterize this as a
- 20 financial obligation of the Ellis Thompson
- 21 Corporation?
- 22 A. The CMS settlement agreement?
- 23 Q. Yes.
- A. Yes, I would.
- Q. Now, has that agreement been honored,

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- the \$400,000, was that dispersed?
- 2 A. No, it has not. The \$400,000 -- under
- 3 the loan documents with Provident Bank,
- 4 Mr. Thompson is precluded from making a
- 5 distribution while the loan is outstanding and he
- 6 has sought Provident Bank's approval to make this
- 7 distribution and Provident Bank has granted that
- 8 approval but the distribution has not been made
- 9 for other reasons.
- 10 Q. Now, has Comcast assumed any
- 11 responsibility for this obligation?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. Are the Atlantic system capital
- 14 expenses and operating expenses paid by the Ellis
- 15 Thompson Corporation?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. And does the money come from accounts
- 18 that are controlled by Ellis Thompson
- 19 Corporation?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And does Mr. Thompson have control over
- these accounts?
- A. Yes, he does.
- Q. And is access to these accounts limited
- 25 to specific Comcast personnel?

1 A. Yes, it is.

- 2 O. And Mr. Thompson is the one that
- decides what personnel have access to these
- 4 accounts, is that correct?
- 5 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 6 Q. And are there caps on the amounts these
- 7 individuals are allowed to withdraw from these
- 8 accounts without Mr. Thompson's prior approval?
- 9 A. Yes, that's in accordance with this
- 10 policy that we've discussed earlier.
- Q. And again, going back to that policy,
- 12 it's Mr. Thompson that ultimately decides who
- 13 will and who won't have that authority?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- MR. REIDELER: No further questions.
- 16 Joe?
- 17 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR
- 18 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
- 19 BY MR. WEBER:
- Q. Does Mr. Thompson have an independent
- 21 accounting firm or accountant review the books of
- 22 Ellis Thompson Corporation?
- A. Yes, he does. Deloitte & Touche
- 24 performs an annual audit for the corporation each
- 25 year.

1	MR. WEBER: That's all the questions I
2	have.
3	EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR
4	FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
5	BY MR. REIDELER:
6	Q. Just a few final questions and we'll
7	have this over with. I would like to just touch
8	on how or who receives the monies from the
9	operation. Are the revenues derived from the
10	Atlantic City system placed in any accounts other
11	than those controlled by Ellis Thompson?
12	A. No, they're not. They're placed in
13	Ellis Thompson Corporation accounts.
14	Q. Does Mr. Thompson receive a salary from
15	the corporation?
16	A. Yes, he does.
17	Q. Is that salary paid by Ellis Thompson
18	Corporation or by Comcast?
19	A. By Ellis Thompson Corporation.
20	Q. And who determines what the salary will
21	be?
22	A. Mr. Thompson.
23	Q. Has this always been the case?
24	A. Yes.
25	MR. REIDELER: I have no further

1	questions.
2	EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR
3	FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
4	BY MR. WEBER:
5	Q. Has Ellis Thompson Corporation made any
6	distributions under the CMS agreement?
7	A. No.
8	Q. When the time comes for distributions
9	to be made under the CMS agreement, whose
10	decision will it be to make those distributions?
11	A. Mr. Thompson's.
12	MR. WEBER: I have no further
13	questions.
14	MR. REIDELER: That's it for me.
15	MR. LARSON: I have a few follow-up
16	questions.
17	EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR
18	ELLIS THOMPSON CORPORATION
19	BY MR. LARSON:
20	Q. There may have been some confusion
21	about the distributions referred to in Lokting
22	Exhibit 3 and I just want to make sure we clear
23	that up if indeed there are any confusions.
24	The \$400,000 distribution referred to
25	in Lokting Exhibit 3, is that pursuant to the CMS

settlement agreement? Is there any obligation in 1 the CMS settlement agreement that a distribution 2 be made or what is that 400,000 referring to? 3 The CMS settlement agreement is a contract and I believe that Ellis Thompson 5 Corporation, if and when it obtains the license for this system by final order, will seek to bring the minority parties to that agreement into 8 equity ownership in the system. And as such, 9 10 those persons would then be entitled to distributions on a pro rata basis. But until 11 that occurs, I don't believe that there is any 12 13 obligation to make distributions to those 14 persons. 15 Let me approach it a different way. 0. 16 Have there been any distributions of profits made 17 to Ellis Thompson Corporation? Ellis Thompson Corporation is a 18 19 Subchapter S corporation and, as such, it does 20 not pay any taxes on revenues itself but the tax 21 liability flows through the corporation to the 22 corporation's shareholders. And Mr. Thompson is 23 the sole shareholder of the corporation.

over the years of approximately a million and a

There have been distribution of profits

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- half to \$2 million to Mr. Thompson to allow him
- 2 to pay the tax liability that accrues as a result
- 3 of system taxable income.
- Q. Who determines whether any
- 5 distributions are made?
- A. Mr. Thompson.
- 7 Q. Does any third party have any
- 8 contractual right to have a voice in whether any
- 9 distributions are made?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Does Mr. Thompson have to obtain
- 12 approval from a lender in order to make any
- 13 distributions?
- 14 A. Yes. He has agreed -- there are
- 15 covenants in the Provident Bank loan documents
- 16 that he would breach if he were to make
- 17 distributions without their consent.
- 18 Q. Other than the distributions for tax
- 19 purposes, have any other distributions of profit
- 20 been made?
- A. Not to date, no.
- Q. Why is that?
- A. Well, there are three principal
- 24 reasons. One is that Provident Bank has
- 25 prohibited the distribution of profits without

1 their consent and we approached them this year given the forecasted revenues for the system and 2 have obtained their consent. But up until this 3 4 point, it didn't seem likely that they would give their consent to a distribution. 5 Secondly, the minority interest holders 6 7 under the CMS agreement have not been brought 8 into equity ownership. And that's really the subject of the civil litigation and we have not 9 10 felt it prudent to make distributions to people who are not actual equity owners in advance of 11 the resolution of those issues. 12 So there is a practical matter of having this contractual 13 14 obligation or potential obligation to make 15 distributions to them but they have not yet 16 really been brought into system ownership. 17 And then thirdly, the operating 18 revenues, the cash, have all been plowed into 19 capital improvements. And so the retained 20 earnings of the system are really reflected in 21 capital expenditures and the equipment that has 22 been purchased and they're not sitting in the 23 company in the form of cash. It's difficult to 24 make a distribution unless you have cash that's

actually sitting there.

1). Has	Amcell	contri	bute	d ar	y cash	to	
2	Ellis	Thompson	Corpor	ation	for	the	operation	on o	f

- 3 the system?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. The Ellis Thompson Corporation entered
- 6 into an indemnity provision with Amcell or
- 7 Comcast, didn't it?
- A. Yes, there is an indemnity agreement.
- 9 Q. And as part of that indemnity
- agreement, does it give Amsell/Comcast some
- authority to comment or control the litigation?
- 12 A. In a limited sense. There is an
- indemnity agreement. The indemnity is
- 14 conditioned upon Amcell having control over the
- 15 defense and settlement of litigation and so
- 16 Mr. Thompson would have to honor that condition
- if he wished to seek the indemnity.
- At the same time, Amcell's right to
- 19 control the defense and settlement of any
- litigation is itself conditioned upon, number
- one, keeping Mr. Thompson fully informed about
- 22 all litigation; number two, they are restricted
- from settling any litigation in any fashion that
- 24 would have an effect on him or Ellis Thompson
- 25 Corporation without his consent so he has

- 1 corresponding consent right; and then thirdly,
- the indemnity specifically acknowledges that he
- 3 will be separately represented before the FCC in
- 4 any FCC proceedings.
- 5 Q. Has Mr. Thompson, as a practical
- 6 matter, made any decisions regarding the
- 7 litigation?
- 8 A. As a practical matter, Mr. Thompson has
- 9 made all decisions regarding his role in the
- 10 litigation and has controlled his actions in the
- litigation himself and completely independently
- 12 from Comcast.
- 13 Q. The management agreement which you
- discussed with the counsel for the Wireless
- Bureau, I believe, was part of Exhibit 1. How
- long a term is that for?
- 17 A. It's for ten years.
- Q. And why did Ellis Thompson Corporation
- 19 agree to a ten-year term?
- A. To have some consistency over the
- 21 management of the system and because it was a
- 22 start-up system, it was anticipated that it would
- take several years to develop fully.
- Q. Mr. Reideler asked you whether
- 25 Mr. Thompson had any misgivings about

- 1 consolidating the Atlantic City office for
- 2 operations into the Wilmington operations. And I
- 3 think you said that he did not have any
- 4 misgivings. Why was that?
- 5 A. Well, because, in fact, he was eager to
- do it because it represented a significant
- 7 savings in terms of overall operating costs of
- 8 the system.
- 9 A prior question was asked regarding
- the Comcast management fee in Exhibit 3 and
- 11 whether that accurately stated Mr. Thompson's
- 12 feelings regarding the management fee. I
- 13 testified that he from time to time felt that the
- 14 fee was higher than it should be. And one
- 15 statement that's stated here is that ETC, which
- is Ellis Thompson Corporation, recognizes that
- 17 Comcast brings many cost saving opportunities to
- Atlantic City which in all fairness should also
- 19 be considered.
- And the economy of scale with the
- 21 Wilmington operation and the cost savings there
- were part of the give and take in the
- corresponding side to paying the management fee
- 24 to Comcast. So there were cost savings that
- offset the fee expense.

1	Q.	You	were	reading	from	Exhibit	3	there?
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- 2 A. Yes, I am.
- Q. Mr. Thompson also purchases switching
- 4 services from Amsell/Comcast, doesn't he?
- A. Yes, he does.
- Q. Why is that?
- 7 A. Well, initially, the switch sharing
- 8 agreement was entered into because Mr. Thompson
- 9 determined that from a competitive standpoint, it
- 10 would be best to install a Motorola switch and
- 11 Motorola equipment in the Atlantic City system
- but he also had a report that analyzed whether
- 13 markets were feasible on a stand alone switch
- 14 basis or a switch sharing basis. And he believed
- that Atlantic City would be a more financially
- feasible market if he entered into a switch
- 17 sharing arrangement with another party or
- 18 obtained switching services without purchasing
- 19 and operating his own switch.
- That topic was discussed with Amcell
- 21 and the rate that Amcell offered appeared to be a
- 22 very attractive rate for those services. So he
- 23 entered into that arrangement for those financial
- 24 considerations.
- Q. Mr. Reideler was asking you some

- questions about the budget approval process and
- the fact that Mr. Thompson had not always
- approved the budgets proposed by Amsell/Comcast.
- 4 Can you explain why there were instances in which
- 5 Mr. Thompson did not approve those budgets?
- A. Well, typically the budgets were
- 7 proposed to build out the system and to increase
- 8 the capacity of the system. And Mr. Thompson was
- 9 sympathetic to the need to increase the capacity
- of the system because he has always operated the
- 11 system in order to ensure proper service to the
- 12 customers. At the same time, he is not a person
- who likes to borrow money and he was not
- 14 generally in favor of increasing the debt load of
- the system. And typically, especially in the
- 16 early years, the operating revenues and cash flow
- were not sufficient to cover the capital
- 18 expenditures in full and from time to time he
- 19 would agree to increasing the credit line to
- 20 cover some of those expenditures but he simply
- 21 did not want the system to get too loaded up on
- 22 debt.
- MR. LARSON: Could I just take a couple
- of minutes to look through my notes?
- MR. REIDELER: Sure.

1	MR.	LARSON:	Off	the	record.

2 (Discussion off the record.)

BY MR. LARSON:

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- Q. Mr. Lokting, Mr. Reideler asked you some questions about the allocation of costs from Wilmington to Atlantic City and I believe you looked at a document where you and Mr. Thompson had reviewed those allocations. Do you have anyone else audit or review those allocations?
 - A. Yes. As part of the annual audit,

 Deloitte & Touche is charged with responsibility

 of making sure that those costs check out with

 the allocations in accordance with the agreement.
 - Q. Have you negotiated any changes to the Provident loan regarding the management of the system?
- A. Yes. Initially the Provident loan
 agreement required that Amcell manage the
 agreement. That was not really a negotiated
 issue at that time because we had signed a
 long-term management agreement with Amcell and
 they were going to manage the system.
- So it did not appear to be a material requirement by them but it became an issue as part of the FCC proceeding. So I contacted the

- bank and the bank's concern simply was that
- 2 competent management be in place for the system
- and that they have the right to ensure that
- 4 competent management was in place. And so we
- 5 amended the terms of the agreement to provide
- 6 simply that they would have approval authority
- 7 over any particular manager, including Ellis
- 8 Thompson Corporation itself, and there is no
- 9 specific requirement that Comcast or Amcell be
- 10 the manager of the system.
- 11 Q. If Mr. Thompson wasn't pleased with the
- 12 performance of Amsell/Comcast or its employees
- 13 under the management agreement and felt they were
- not living up to their responsibilities, could he
- 15 terminate them?
- 16 A. Yes, he could.
- Q. Who pays Stoll, Stoll, Berne, Lokting &
- 18 Shlachter's legal fees for matters relating to
- 19 Ellis Thompson or Ellis Thompson Corporation?
- A. Ellis Thompson Corporation.
- Q. Is that the case both for your business
- · 22 advice and for litigation?
 - A. Yes, it is.
 - Q. And does Mr. Thompson make decisions
 - 25 regarding the prosecution of the litigation

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- 2 A. Yes, he does.
- Q. And is he the person who has the final
- 4 say on those decisions?
- A. Yes, he is.
- 6 O. And does he direct those decisions
- 7 through FCC counsel?
- 8 A. Yes. Generally through FCC counsel
- 9 with my involvement as well.
- 10 Q. And who is the FCC counsel?
- 11 A. Stuart Feldstein and his firm,
- 12 Fleischman & Walsh.
- Q. And with respect to litigation
- 14 decisions, such as the prosecution of the
- 15 litigation in Oregon, who does Mr. Thompson
- 16 direct his decisions through?
- 17 A. Well, he makes the decisions and he
- directs my law firm to carry out those decisions.
- MR. LARSON: I have nothing further.
- 20 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR
- 21 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
- BY MR. REIDELER:
- Q. There is just one point I would like to
- 24 touch on. This has to do with Provident National
- 25 Bank. Do you know if Provident also finances

- other cellular licensees?
- 2 A. Yes. They are a major player in the
- 3 financing of cellular systems, cellular
- 4 businesses.
- 5 Q. And you mentioned that the Ellis
- 6 Thompson loan with Provident has certain
- 7 restrictions on disbursement of funds and certain
- 8 requirements of management.
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Is this typical of their other loans
- that you're aware of?
- 12 A. It's typical of their other loans, yes,
- that I'm aware of and it's typical of any loan
- where the lender is looking to the performance of
- the business enterprise to repay the loan such as
- our case where the corporation itself and its
- 17 assets are sole recourse of the lender for
- 18 repayment and there is no outside credit such as
- 19 Mr. Thompson's personal guarantee or of any other
- 20 cosigner.
- MR. REIDELER: Thank you, I have no
- 22 further questions.
- 23 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR TDS
- BY MR. SALPETER:
- Q. I have a couple. For the record, I'm

1	Alan Salpeter representing TDS. You're appearing
2	voluntarily today?
3	A. Yes, I am.
4	Q. And there was no subpoena issued in
5	connection with the deposition?
6	A. No.
7	Q. And the date, time and place were all
8	agreed to by counsel of the various parties?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. Which office of Deloitte & Touche
11	audits Ellis Thompson Corporation's books?
12	A. Philadelphia.
13	MR. SALPETER: I have nothing further.
14	(Whereupon, at 1:00 p.m., the taking of
15	the instant deposition ceased.)
16	
17	
18	Signature of the Witness
19	
20	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this
21	day of, 19
22	
23	
24	NOTARY PUBLIC
25	My Commission expires:

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) ss.:

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

I, MARY GRACE PRESTO, the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Notary Public in and for

the District of Columbia

My commission expires: 6-30-96

AGREEMENT

Agreement dated this 30th day of December, 1987, between Amcell of Atlantic City, Inc., a New Jersey corporation ("Amcell") having principal offices at Bayport One, Suite 400, Verona Boulevard, West Atlantic City, New Jersey 08232 and Ellis Thompson and Ellis Thompson Corporation (collectively, "Licensee") with an address at 5406 North Missouri Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97217.

Whereas, Licensee is the tentative selectee for the grant of authority by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to construct a cellular communications system operating on Frequency Block A to serve the Atlantic City, New Jersey Metropolitan Statistical Area (herein the "System"); and

Whereas, Licensee is a signatory to the settlement agreement with Cellular Management Services, Inc. (herein the "Settlement Agreement"), which agreement grants to the other parties to the Settlement Agreement up to a 49.99% interest in the entity which owns the System; and

Whereas, Licensee is desirous of entering into arrangements for the construction of the System and, after construction is completed, for obtaining switching services and maintenance services from Amcell: and

WHEREAS, Licensee is further agreeable to furnishing and making available to Amcell after construction of the System is completed cellular radio service on the terms and conditions herein contained.

